

(Purpose: To ensure that \$5,000,000 is available for a study to assess the feasibility and advisability of using service dogs for the treatment or rehabilitation of veterans with physical or mental injuries or disabilities)

On page 52, after line 21, add the following:
SEC. 229. Of the amounts appropriated or otherwise made available by this title for the Department of Veterans Affairs, \$5,000,000 shall be available for the study required by section 1077 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010.

Mr. FRANKEN. Mr. President, the amendment I offer today would fund a vital new initiative within the Department of Veteran Affairs that was authorized by the recent National Defense Authorization Act. This initiative is a VA program and study for the provision of service dogs to disabled veterans, which began as an amendment I offered to the Defense authorization bill and is now a provision in the enacted law.

This 3-year program will study the benefit of using service dogs to help treat veterans with physical and mental injuries and disabilities. It is meant to provide the VA with one more tool to raise the quality of life for those who have given so much to our Nation.

Under this program, the VA will partner with nonprofit organizations that provide service dogs free of charge to veterans. The government will offset some of the costs of providing the dogs, which are currently funded largely through private donations. This will allow roughly 200 veterans to be paired with dogs and to participate in the study. In this way, the program will amount to a public-private partnership where donors to those nonprofits will know their money will go further, thanks to public matching funds.

The veterans who participate in the study will be veterans with physical disabilities and with mental disabilities such as PTSD. It was one such veteran, CPT Luis Montalvan, who initially sparked my interest in this effort. I met Luis, who had been injured while serving in Anbar in Iraq, along with his service dog Tuesday, at an inaugural event. Luis explained to me that he could not have been there if it weren't for Tuesday who eases his PTSD in numerous and very impressive ways.

After meeting Luis, I undertook research and learned about all of the benefits that service dogs can provide individuals with disabilities. I saw the wonderful work of the nonprofits which give their time and the donors who give their money to undertake the intensive training and the provision of these dogs. I learned there were more veterans out there who feel they could benefit from such a service dog if they had access to one.

I introduced my legislation shortly after coming to office. The VA program it establishes will study—scientifically—the benefits to veterans of the service dogs, so we are proceeding based on evidence. The VA will also provide funds to veterans who partici-

pate in the study to cover some of the costs of maintaining their service dogs.

Today I am offering this amendment to the Military Construction and Department of Veterans Affairs appropriations legislation so the fully authorized VA initiative may now be fully funded. The amendment is straightforward and reasonable. My amendment today would simply make \$5 million available for this study that passed by unanimous consent. In this way, we can both provide more service dogs to the veterans who want them, and we can study the benefits they can provide to those veterans and the most effective ways to provide those benefits.

Our Nation owes a profound debt to those who have served in the military. For those veterans with disabilities, we need to make sure the VA has as many effective tools for raising their quality of life as possible. My amendment would make sure that one of those tools is funded.

I urge my colleagues to support this amendment.

I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROVIDING FOR A CONDITIONAL ADJOURNMENT/RECESS OF THE HOUSE AND SENATE

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H. Con. Res. 210, the adjournment resolution, received from the House and is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (H. Con. Res. 210) providing for a conditional adjournment of the House of Representatives and a conditional recess or adjournment of the Senate.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the concurrent resolution.

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the concurrent resolution be agreed to and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 210) was agreed to, as follows:

H. CON. RES. 210

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That when the House adjourns on any legislative day from Friday, November 6, 2009, through Tuesday, Novem-

ber 10, 2009, on a motion offered pursuant to this concurrent resolution by its Majority Leader or his designee, it stand adjourned until 2 p.m. on Monday, November 16, 2009, or until the time of any reassembly pursuant to section 2 of this concurrent resolution, whichever occurs first; and that when the Senate recesses or adjourns on any day from Friday, November 6, 2009, through Tuesday, November 10, 2009, on a motion offered pursuant to this concurrent resolution by its Majority Leader or his designee, it stand recessed or adjourned until noon on Monday, November 16, 2009, or such other time on that day as may be specified in the motion to recess or adjourn, or until the time of any reassembly pursuant to section 2 of this concurrent resolution, whichever occurs first.

SEC. 2. The Speaker of the House and the Majority Leader of the Senate, or their respective designees, acting jointly after consultation with the Minority Leader of the House and the Minority Leader of the Senate, shall notify the Members of the House and the Senate, respectively, to reassemble at such place and time as they may designate if, in their opinion, the public interest shall warrant it.

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. INOUE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, VETERANS AFFAIRS AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2010—Continued

Mr. INOUE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the pending amendment be set aside so I may say a few words.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. INOUE. Mr. President, let me begin, first, by thanking Chairman JOHNSON and Senator HUTCHISON for their fine work in preparing this measure before us. Similar to the other appropriations bills for fiscal year 2010, this bill, which provides the necessary funding for military construction and veterans programs, was prepared by the subcommittee on a bipartisan basis.

I am very pleased to advise my colleagues in the Senate that the committee endorsed the bill unanimously and forwarded this matter to the Senate for consideration.

As my colleagues are aware, we are already more than 1 month into the new fiscal year, and we simply need to complete our work on this measure.

Moreover, Wednesday is Veterans Day. It would truly send the right message to our veterans for the Senate to pass this bill before November 11.

Again, I wish to commend the chairman and Senator HUTCHISON for their fine work on this measure and urge its adoption.